

The Conover Farm  
Chapel Hill, Monmouth County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-276

HABS  
NJ  
13-CHAP  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.  
13-CHAP.  
1-

The Conover Farm  
Chapel Hill, Monmouth County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. Thomas C. Sherman

Date of Erection: 1757

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Very good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - native field-  
stone and brick

Exterior walls - frame  
construction, shingles

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, slate over  
original wood shingles

Historical Data:

Beekman records that Jacob Couwenhoven of Flatlands, Long Island, was a member of the family of Couwenhovens who purchased land formerly taken up by one of the original Monmouth Patentees who bought it from the Indians. It was this same Jacob Couwenhoven who was commissioned to go to the Sandy

Hook lighthouse and smash the lamps, thereby depriving the expected British fleet the benefit of them.

The farm upon which this house was built was owned by William Conover or Couwenhoven, a son of Jacob; this William was probably the builder. Tradition indicates that the house was built before the Revolutionary War because it was supposed to have been used as a mortuary during the retreat of the British through Middletown. The date 1757 is moulded in a special brick  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " set in the inside of the chimney of the east gable. This brick was undoubtedly placed there when the house was built, since it is burned the same as the others.

The house is located at the foot of Gerret's Hill which was a revolutionary observation point used by Major-General John Stillwell to get information on the movements of the British in New York Harbor.

In 1858 the farm passed from the Conover family to Edward Tilton Hopping. It remained in the Hopping family until 1921 when it was sold to the present owner. Originally there was an old kitchen on the north side of the house which has been removed. The roof of the house has also been changed sometime previous to the present ownership.

#### Bibliography:

Beekman, George C. Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, N.J. Freehold, Moreau Brothers, 1901

Material from the Red Bank Register,  
Thomas Irving Brown, Publisher, Red  
Bank

Material collected from deeds and  
abstract of title by George A. Delatash,  
Monmouth County H.A.B.S. Supervisor

Walter E. Cuth  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

3/11/37 - 100